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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/679,072

10/03/2003

Rodney Fulton

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12/28/2006

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EXAMINER

KWIECINSKI, RYAN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/28/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/679,072

Applicant(s)

FULTON ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan D. Kwiecinski

Art Unit

3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-12, 14, 17-19 and 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/03/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

In response to the amendment filed November 13, 2006, Applicant has elected Species II and claims 1-9, 13, 15, and newly entered claims 18-23. Applicant feels these claims are readable on Species II. Claims 10-12, 14, and 16-17 have been withdrawn from consideration. Examiner indicates that claim 18 reads on Species IV, and claims 19 and 22 read on Species III. Claim 18 introduces a frame built with individual castings and claims 19 and 22 introduce a dam member and a hood for the venting means respectively. Therefore claims 18, 19, and 22 are withdrawn from consideration. Examiner also indicates that claim 15 does read on Species II and will be considered in this office action. Upon request, Examiner lists the generic claims as follows: 1-3, 5, 9, and 15.

Claims 1-23 were entered with the application. The restriction is upheld and claims 10-12, 14, 17-19, and 22 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-9, 13, 15-16, 20-21, and 23 were examined in this office action.

Corrections to the specification have been entered.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 8, paragraph 3, line 3: "the from" appears it should be --from the--

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2,5,6,9,13,15,20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,299,399 to Baier et al.

Claim 1:

Baier et al. teaches an apparatus for venting ornamental windows covered by a protective panel comprising:

- a) an ornamental window (14, Fig.2);
- b) a protective panel (32, Fig.2);
- c) a framing element (K, Exhibit X);
- d) at least one airspace between said window and said protective panel (34, Fig.2);
- e) venting means (40, Fig.2) comprising an entry vent opening (B, Exhibit X) and an exit vent opening (Column 3, lines 13-15);
- f) said entry vent opening comprising a first path (A, Exhibit X) and a first interior vent opening (C, Exhibit X) to said airspace, said exit vent opening comprising a second path and a second interior vent opening to said airspace.

With the patent disclosing the structure of a vent in each of the four corners of the framed window, each opening vent pairs with an identical exiting vent. This will be true throughout the entire action when referring to the exit portion of the vents.

Claim 2:

Baier teaches an apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 1 wherein each said entry vent opening further comprises a first area (D, Exhibit Y), said exit vent opening further comprises a second area; said first interior vent opening comprises a third area (E, Exhibit Y) and said second interior vent opening comprises a fourth area; said first path comprises a first cross sectional area (F, Exhibit Y); said second path comprises a second cross sectional area; said first area at least equals said first cross sectional area and said first cross sectional area does not exceed said third area (Referring back to Exhibit X, first area equals the first cross sectional area and the third area exceeds the first cross sectional area); and said second area at least equals said second cross sectional area and said second cross sectional area does not exceed said fourth area.

Claim 5:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first interior vent opening is spaced vertically above said entry vent opening to prevent entry of rainwater into said air space (Exhibit X).

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Claim 6:

Baier et al. teaches an apparatus for venting ornamental windows covered by a protective panel comprising:

- a) an ornamental window (14, Fig.2);
- b) a protective panel (32, Fig.2);
- c) a framing element (K, Exhibit X);
- d) at least one airspace between said window and said protective panel (34, Fig.2);

e) venting means (40, Fig.2) comprising a plurality of pairs (Column 3, lines 13-15) of vent openings each pair having an entry vent opening (B, Exhibit X) having a first area (D, Exhibit Y) and an exit vent opening having a second area;

f) each said entry vent opening comprises a first path (A, Exhibit X) and a first interior opening (C, Exhibit Y) and each said exit vent opening comprises a second interior opening and a second path; and

g) for each said entry vent opening, said first interior opening comprises a third area (E, Exhibit Y) and for each said exit vent opening, each said second interior opening comprises a fourth area, each said first path comprises a first cross-sectional area (F, Exhibit Y) and each said second path comprises a second cross-sectional area.

Claim 9:

Baier et al. teaches an apparatus for venting ornamental windows covered by a protective panel comprising:

- a) an ornamental window (14, Fig.2);
- b) a protective panel (32, Fig.2);
- c) at least one framing element (K, Exhibit X);
- d) at least one airspace between said window and said protective panel (34, Fig.2);
- e) venting means (40, Fig.2) comprising at least one pair of vent openings (Column 3, lines 13-15) each pair comprising an entry vent opening (B, Exhibit X) having a first area (D, Exhibit Y) and an exit vent opening having a second area;
- f) each said entry vent opening comprises a first proximal path (A, Exhibit X) having a first proximal cross section (F, Exhibit Y), a first inside opening (G, Exhibit X), a first distal path (H, Exhibit X) having a first distal cross section (I, Exhibit Y) and a first interior opening (C, Exhibit X) all for allowing air to flow into said airspace and each said exit vent opening comprises a second proximal path having a second proximal cross section, a second inside opening, a second distal path having a second distal cross section and a second interior opening all for allowing air to flow out of said airspace';
- g) said first interior opening comprises a third area (E, Exhibit Y) and said second interior opening comprises a fourth area;
- h) said first inside opening comprises a fifth area (J, Exhibit Y) and said second inside opening comprises a sixth area;

i) for each said entry vent opening, said first area does not exceed said first proximal cross sectional area, said fifth area at least equals said first proximal cross sectional area, said first distal cross sectional area at least equals said fifth area, and said third area at least equals said first distal cross sectional area (Exhibit X shows the widths of the paths and opening which correspond with the structure in claim 9,i); and

j) for each said exit vent opening, said fourth area does not exceed said second distal cross sectional area, said sixth area at least equals said second distal cross sectional area, said second proximal cross sectional area at least equals said sixth area and said second area at least equals said second proximal cross sectional area.

Claim 13:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 9 wherein said at least one framing element is a perimeter frame which holds only said protective panel (K, Exhibit X) and said airspace is defined by a separation between said protective panel and said ornamental window.

Claim 15:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 9 wherein at least one of said entry vent openings includes a debris deterring accessory (36, Fig.2 or 72, Fig.13).

Claim 20:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 13 wherein said first interior vent opening is spaced vertically above said entry vent opening to prevent rain from entering said airspace (Exhibit X).

Claim 21:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 13 wherein at least one of said entry vent openings includes a debris deterring accessory (36, Fig.2 or 72, Fig.13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,299,399 to Baier et al.

Claim 3:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 2 but does not teach where said first area equals at least one square inch for each about 2000 to 2500 square inches of ornamental window to be vented.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have created Baier's vent openings and paths large enough to effectively allow air to circulate through the inner space of an ornamental window. For a larger window, there clearly needs to be either larger vent openings or a larger number of vent openings to properly circulate the air through the airspace to prevent moisture from building up in the airspace. The size of the vent opening in comparison to the ornamental window and protective panel was an obvious design choice.

Claim 7:

Baier et al teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 6 wherein for each said entry vent opening, said first area at least equals first cross sectional area and said first cross sectional area does not exceed said third area, but does not teach wherein a sum of all said first areas is at least one square inch for every 2000-2500 square inches of ornamental window.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have created Baier's vent openings and paths large enough to effectively allow air to circulate through the inner space of an ornamental window. For a larger window, there clearly needs to be either larger vent openings or a larger number of vent openings to properly circulate the air through the airspace to prevent moisture from building up in the airspace. The

size of the vent opening in comparison to the ornamental window and protective panel was an obvious design choice.

Claim 8:

Baier et al. teaches an apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 7 wherein for each said exit vent opening, said fourth area at least equals said second cross sectional area and said second cross sectional area does not exceed said second area (Exhibit X and Y).

Claims 4, 16, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,299,399 to Baier et al in view of USPN 4,656,803.

Claim 4:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 3 but does not teach wherein said entry vent opening is covered by a screen such that is has an effective first area of 66% such that said first area at least equals 1.66 square inches for each about 2000 to 2500 square inches of ornamental window. Chludil teaches wherein said entry vent opening is covered by a screen (Fig.2) such that is has an effective first area of 66% such that said first area at least equals 1.66 square inches for each about 2000 to 2500 square inches of ornamental window.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have covered Baier's venting means with a screen to

deter debris and insects from entering the vent openings. Using a screen to deter debris and insects from entering an opening is notoriously well known in the art and would have been an obvious design choice. It would have also been obvious to have created Baier's vent openings and paths large enough to effectively allow air to circulate through the inner space of an ornamental window. For a larger window, there clearly needs to be either larger vent openings or a larger number of vent openings to properly circulate the air through the airspace to prevent moisture from building up in the airspace. The size of the vent opening in comparison to the ornamental window and protective panel was an obvious design choice.

Claims 16 and 23:

Baier et al. teaches the apparatus for venting ornamental windows as claimed in claim 9 and as claimed in claim 13, Baier et al. does not teach wherein said debris deterring accessory is a screen or further comprising at least one screen proximal one of said entry vent openings for deterring entry of debris. Chludil teaches wherein said debris deterring accessory is a screen (Fig.2) or further comprising at least one screen proximal one of said entry vent openings for deterring entry of debris (S, Fig.1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have covered Baier's venting means with a screen to deter debris and insects from entering the vent openings. Using a screen to

deter debris and insects from entering an opening is notoriously well known in the art and would have been an obvious design choice.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan D. Kwiecinski whose telephone number is (571)272-5160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Naoko Slack can be reached on (571)272-6848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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